

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6-18, 24 and 25 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 has been amended, and claim 5 has been canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment was necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). The Office Action contends that “the manipulator that is detachable from the saw and track must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).” Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is misplaced. The manipulator of the invention is labeled generally in the figures with reference numeral 20. As shown in Figure 2, the manipulator 20 includes, among other things, a rotatable track support assembly 34 that includes holding brackets 38 for holding the track during installation and removal. See also paragraph [0026]. The specification describes that in operation, the saw and track assembly is secure to the manipulator 20 via the holding brackets 38. When the saw and track assembly is secured to the wall to be sawed, the operator disconnects the manipulator 20 from the track, and the manipulator 20 is returned to its stowed position. See paragraph [0033]

and [0034]. Applicant respectfully submits that the illustration of the holding brackets 38 and the description that the manipulator 20 is disconnected from the track and saw assembly prior to a sawing operation renders the drawings in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-18, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action contends that “it is unclear as to what structure constitutes the detachable connection of the manipulator from the saw and track, as well as the working position.” Claim 1 recites that the saw and track manipulator is detachable from the saw and track in the working position. Details of this structure that effects such detachment is not part of the independent claim, although exemplary structure as described in the specification is the holding brackets 38, which support the saw and track for positioning prior to a sawing operation. The specification describes that the manipulator 20 is disconnected from the saw and track assembly prior to the sawing operation. Applicant submits that those of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand what structure constitutes the detachable connection.

As also would be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, the “working position” is a position in which a sawing operation can commence. The meaning of this phrase is evident throughout the specification, which describes that the manipulator 20 enables positioning of the saw and track to and from the working position. The specification further describes that the saw and track are secured to the manipulator 20, and the platform 12 is ascended to the cut location. Once positioned, the manipulator is disconnected from the track, and the track can be fully secured for the sawing operation. The specification further describes that after the sawing operation, the manipulator 20 is then reattached to the saw and track for movement to the next cut location. Applicant respectfully submits that at least from these descriptions, those of

ordinary skill in the art would readily understand what is meant by the claimed “working position.”

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,832,412 to Bertrand. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is well settled that anticipation under §102(b) requires that each and every feature of the rejected claims is disclosed in a single prior art reference. As discussed previously, Bertrand discloses a manipulator that is intended to position and control the saw and track during a cutting operation. In contrast, the accessory of the invention defined in claim 1 is detachable from the saw and track during operation (i.e., “in the working position”). See, for example, paragraph [0027]. There is no structure in the Bertrand patent that enables its saw and track to be detached from a manipulator. The Office Action in fact recognizes that this feature of the invention is lacking in the references of record (see page 4 of the Office Action with reference to the subject matter of claim 9). Claim 1 additionally defines a hydraulic power source that is controllable from the aerial work platform. The Bertrand patent is silent with regard to the nature of any of its power controls. Since at least these features are lacking in the Bertrand patent, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is misplaced.

With regard to dependent claims 3 and 24, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bertrand in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,863,062 to Denys. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding this rejection, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and to include the subject matter of claim 5. This subject matter includes the feature wherein the quick-connect coupler comprises an emergency disconnect feature that disconnects the coupling when an operator attempts to move the aerial work platform while it is connected to the saw mounted on the wall. The Office Action contends that the Denys patent “teaches the utility of various fittings, valves and the like.” The Office Action then dismisses the emergency disconnect feature of the invention as mere “engineering design choice.” Both Bertrand and Denys, however, are silent with regard to any such emergency disconnect feature, and Applicant is not aware of any such systems where excessive pull or the like on hoses enables the quick-connect coupler to disconnect the coupling. Since at least this subject matter is also lacking in the references of record, Applicant submits that the rejection is misplaced.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 2 and 6-8 are allowed and that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter.

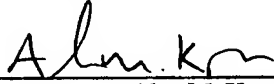
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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